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(72) Inventors:  
• **van der Meer, Walterus Gijsbertus Joseph  
8604 VA Sneek (NL)**  
• **van Paassen, Wilhelmus Cornelis  
5283 LT Boxtel (NL)**  
• **de Moel, Petrus Jacob  
3871 TG Hoevelaken (NL)**

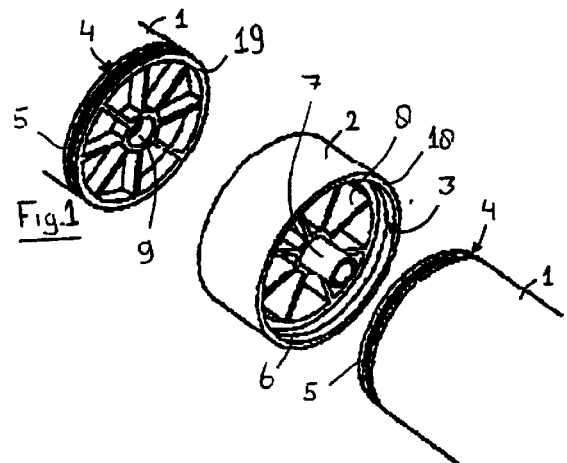
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(71) Applicants:  
• **N.V. Waterleiding Friesland  
8911 BN Leeuwarden (NL)**  
• **N.V. Waterleidingmaatschappij Oost-Brabant  
5211 HX 's-Hertogenbosch (NL)**  
• **DHV Water B.V.  
NL-3818 EX Amersfoort (NL)**

(74) Representative:  
**Voncken, Bartholomeus Maria Christiaan  
Octrooibureau Los en Stigter B.V.  
Weteringschans 96  
1017 XS Amsterdam (NL)**

(54) **Coupling unit for membrane elements**

(57) The invention relates to a coupling unit for coupling two tubular membrane elements (1) of the kind used in membrane filter technology, forming extensions of one another. The coupling unit comprises a jacket piece (2) which is provided at both its ends with sealing surfaces (3) intended to engage the facing ends (4) of the membrane elements (1) to be coupled thereto. The sealing surfaces (3) may be formed on the interior peripheral wall of the jacket piece to engage the exterior peripheral wall (4) of the ends of the membrane elements (1). However, the sealing surfaces may also be formed on the cross-cut end surfaces (18) of the jacket piece (2), and engage the cross-cut end walls (19) of the membrane elements (1). The interior of the jacket piece (2) may comprise an axially extending conduit portion (7) to communicate with corresponding flow conduits (9) in the membrane elements (1).





European Patent Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 98 20 4407

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>THE HAGUE</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>22 November 1999</b>	Examiner <b>Hoornaert, P</b>
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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